



# WRITING CONTINUUM

Preconventional Ages 3–5	Emerging Ages 4–6	Developing Ages 5–7	Beginning Ages 6–8	Expanding Ages 7–9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Relies primarily on pictures to convey meaning.</li><li>Begins to label and add “words” to pictures.</li><li>Writes first name.</li><li>Demonstrates awareness that print conveys meaning.</li><li>Makes marks other than drawing on paper (scribbles).</li><li>Writes random recognizable letters to represent words.</li><li>Tells about own pictures and writing.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Uses pictures and print to convey meaning.</li><li>Writes words to describe or support pictures.</li><li>Copies signs, labels, names, and words (environmental print).</li><li>Demonstrates understanding of letter/sound relationship.</li><li>Prints with upper case letters.</li><li>Matches letters to sounds.</li><li>Uses beginning consonants to make words.</li><li>Uses beginning and ending consonants to make words.</li><li>Pretends to read own writing.</li><li>Sees self as writer.</li><li>Takes risks with writing.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Writes 1-2 sentences about a topic.</li><li>Writes names and familiar words.</li><li>Generates own ideas for writing.</li><li>Writes from top to bottom, left to right, and front to back.</li><li>Intermixes upper and lower case letters.</li><li>Experiments with capitals.</li><li>Experiments with punctuation.</li><li>Begins to use spacing between words.</li><li>Uses growing awareness of sound segments (e.g., phonemes, syllables, rhymes) to write words.</li><li>Spells words on the basis of sounds without regard for conventional spelling patterns.</li><li>Uses beginning, middle, and ending sounds to make words.</li><li>Begins to read own writing.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Writes several sentences about a topic.</li><li>Writes about observations and experiences.</li><li>Writes short nonfiction pieces (simple facts about a topic) with guidance.</li><li>Chooses own writing topics.</li><li>Reads own writing and notices mistakes with guidance.</li><li>Revises by adding details with guidance.</li><li>Uses spacing between words consistently.</li><li>Forms most letters legibly.</li><li>Writes pieces that self and others can read.</li><li>Uses phonetic spelling to write independently.</li><li>Spells simple words and some high frequency words correctly.</li><li>Begins to use periods and capital letters correctly.</li><li>Shares own writing with others.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Writes short fiction and poetry with guidance.</li><li>Writes a variety of short nonfiction pieces (e.g., facts about a topic, letters, lists) with guidance.</li><li>Writes with a central idea.</li><li>Writes using complete sentences.</li><li>Organizes ideas in a logical sequence in fiction and nonfiction writing with guidance.</li><li>Begins to recognize and use interesting language.</li><li>Uses several prewriting strategies (e.g., web, brainstorm) with guidance.</li><li>Listens to others’ writing and offers feedback.</li><li>Begins to consider suggestions from others about own writing.</li><li>Adds description and detail with guidance.</li><li>Edits for capitals and punctuation with guidance.</li><li>Publishes own writing with guidance.</li><li>Writes legibly.</li><li>Spells most high frequency words correctly and moves toward conventional spelling.</li><li>Identifies own writing strategies and sets goals with guidance.</li></ul>
Bridging Ages 8–10	Fluent Ages 9–11	Proficient Ages 10–13	Connecting Ages 11–14	Independent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Writes about feelings and opinions.</li><li>Writes fiction with clear beginning, middle, and end.</li><li>Writes poetry using carefully chosen language with guidance.</li><li>Writes organized nonfiction pieces (e.g., reports, letters, and lists) with guidance.</li><li>Begins to use paragraphs to organize ideas.</li><li>Uses strong verbs, interesting language, and dialogue with guidance.</li><li>Seeks feedback on writing.</li><li>Revises for clarity with guidance.</li><li>Revises to enhance ideas by adding description and detail.</li><li>Uses resources (e.g., thesaurus and word lists) to make writing more effective with guidance.</li><li>Edits for punctuation, spelling, and grammar.</li><li>Publishes writing in polished format with guidance.</li><li>Increases use of visual strategies, spelling rules, and knowledge of word parts to spell correctly.</li><li>Uses commas and apostrophes correctly with guidance.</li><li>Uses criteria for effective writing to set own writing goals with guidance.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Begins to write organized fiction and nonfiction (e.g., reports, letters, biographies, and autobiographies).</li><li>Develops stories with plots that include problems and solutions with guidance.</li><li>Creates characters in stories with guidance.</li><li>Writes poetry using carefully chosen language.</li><li>Begins to experiment with sentence length and complex sentence structure.</li><li>Varies leads and endings with guidance.</li><li>Uses description, details, and similes with guidance.</li><li>Uses dialogue with guidance.</li><li>Uses a range of strategies for planning writing.</li><li>Adapts writing for purpose and audience with guidance.</li><li>Revises for specific writing traits (e.g., ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, voice, and conventions) with guidance.</li><li>Incorporates suggestions from others about own writing with guidance.</li><li>Edits for punctuation, spelling, and grammar with greater precision.</li><li>Uses tools (e.g., dictionaries, word lists, and spell checkers) to edit with guidance.</li><li>Develops criteria for effective writing in different genres with guidance.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Writes persuasively about ideas, feelings, and opinions.</li><li>Creates plots with problems and solutions.</li><li>Begins to develop the main characters and describe detailed settings.</li><li>Begins to write organized and fluent nonfiction, including simple bibliographies.</li><li>Writes cohesive paragraphs including reasons and examples with guidance.</li><li>Uses transitional sentences to connect paragraphs.</li><li>Varies sentence structure, leads, and endings.</li><li>Begins to use descriptive language, details, and similes.</li><li>Uses voice to evoke emotional response from readers.</li><li>Begins to integrate information on a topic from a variety of sources.</li><li>Begins to revise for specific writing traits (e.g., ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, voice, and conventions).</li><li>Uses tools (e.g., dictionaries, word lists, spell checkers) to edit independently.</li><li>Selects and publishes writing in polished format independently.</li><li>Begins to use complex punctuation (e.g., commas, colons, semicolons, quotation marks) appropriately.</li><li>Begins to set goals and identify strategies to improve writing in different genres.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Writes in a variety of genres and forms for different audiences and purposes independently.</li><li>Creates plots with a climax.</li><li>Creates detailed, believable settings and characters in stories.</li><li>Writes organized, fluent, and detailed nonfiction independently, including bibliographies with correct format.</li><li>Writes cohesive paragraphs including supportive reasons and examples.</li><li>Uses descriptive language, details, similes, and imagery to enhance ideas independently.</li><li>Begins to use dialogue to enhance character development.</li><li>Incorporates personal voice in writing with increasing frequency.</li><li>Integrates information on a topic from a variety of sources independently.</li><li>Constructs charts, graphs, and tables to convey information when appropriate.</li><li>Uses prewriting strategies effectively to organize and strengthen writing.</li><li>Revises for specific writing traits (e.g., ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, voice, and conventions) independently.</li><li>Includes deletion in revision strategies.</li><li>Incorporates suggestions from others on own writing independently.</li><li>Uses complex punctuation (e.g., commas, colons, semicolons, quotation marks) with increasing accuracy.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Writes organized, fluent, accurate, and in-depth nonfiction, including references with correct bibliographic format.</li><li>Writes cohesive, fluent, and effective poetry and fiction.</li><li>Uses a clear sequence of paragraphs with effective transitions.</li><li>Begins to incorporate literary devices (e.g., imagery, metaphors, personification, and foreshadowing).</li><li>Weaves dialogue effectively into stories.</li><li>Develops plots, characters, setting, and mood (literary elements) effectively.</li><li>Begins to develop personal voice and style of writing.</li><li>Revises through multiple drafts independently.</li><li>Seeks feedback from others and incorporates suggestions in order to strengthen own writing.</li><li>Publishes writing for different audiences and purposes in polished format independently.</li><li>Internalizes writing process.</li><li>Uses correct grammar (e.g., subject/verb agreement and verb tense) consistently.</li><li>Writes with confidence and competence on a range of topics independently.</li><li>Perseveres through complex or challenging writing projects independently.</li><li>Sets writing goals independently by analyzing and evaluating own writing.</li></ul>